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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/633,554	08/05/2003	Hideo Shimada	1509.1036	6669
21171	7590	08/24/2004	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005				FIGUEROA, FELIX O
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2833		

DATE MAILED: 08/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/633,554	SHIMADA, HIDEO
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Felix O. Figueroa	2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/29/03.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "comprising" and "said," should be avoided.

Claim Objections

Claims 6, 7, 9 and are is objected to because of the following informalities: Please note that claim 6 includes double dashes (- -) which creates confusion to whether the claim is being amended. Applicant is kindly requested to remove them from the claim in order to avoid confusion.

Applicant is advised that should claims 8 or 9 be found allowable, claims 10 and 11, respectively, will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States

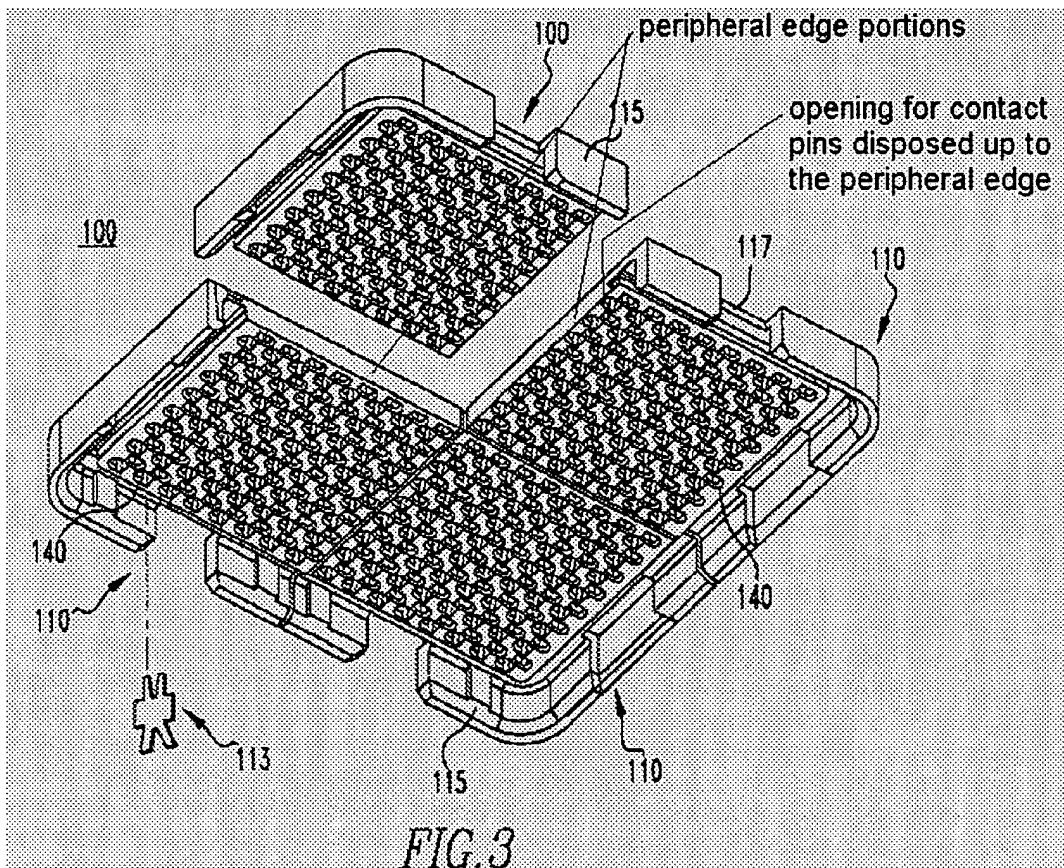
only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Harper, Jr. (US 6,527,297).

Harper discloses a socket (Fig.3) for an electrical part which comprises: a socket body (110) which is mounted on a circuit board (col.4 lines 53-55) and accommodates the electrical part; and a contact pin (113) disposed in the socket body, through which the circuit board and the electrical part are electrically connected (col.2, lines 41-45), the socket body comprising an accommodating surface portion (top side in Fig.4) to accommodate the electrical part, a height of the accommodating surface portion being an approximately the same height as that of another socket which is disposed next to the socket (as shown in Fig.4), and when a plurality of the sockets for the electrical part are disposed adjacently to each other , the electrical part can be mounted over a plurality of accommodating surface portions in such a manner as bridging the accommodating surface portions (col.2, lines 41-45 and col.4 lines 37-39).

Regarding claim 3, Harper discloses a peripheral edge portion of the accommodating surface portion formed to be positioned at a place close to peripheral edge portion of the accommodating surface of another socket disposed next to the socket (see following figure).

Regarding claim 4, Harper discloses the contact pins being disposed up to the peripheral edge portions of the accommodating surface portion (see following figure).



Regarding claims 8 and 10, Harper discloses a method for using the socket for an electrical part, which comprises: disposing a plurality of the sockets in an adjacent manner (col.4 lines 37-39) on the circuit board; and accommodating the electrical part over the accommodating surface portions of the sockets for the electrical part in such a manner as bridging the accommodating surface portions (col.2, lines 41-45).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harper, Jr. in view of Loranger et al. (US 5,971,914).

Harper discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the floating plate. Loranger teaches a socket for an electrical part (Fig.6) having an accommodating surface being a floating plate (12) made to be vertically movable and urge upward (by springs 8), the floating plate having a through hole (24) through which a contact (11) is inserted. This accommodating surface provides a resilient receiving surface for the electrical part (14) and thus reduces stress between the socket and the electrical part. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the accommodating surface of Harper with a floating plate, as taught by Loranger, to provide a resilient receiving surface and reduce stress between the socket and the electrical part.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harper, Jr. in view of Laub et al. (US 5,344,334).

Harper discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the cover member. Laub teaches a socket for an electrical part comprising a cover member (42) rotatably attached (at 46) to the socket body (10) and a pressing member (64) for pressing the electrical part attached to the cover member, pressing portions (free ends of 64) of the pressing member being arranged in such a manner as lined up in a plurality of rows (at least two rows) along a right and left direction, thus exerting a controlled and balance force to securely retain the electrical part (20). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

was made to form the socket of Harper having a rotatably attached cover, as taught by Laub, to exert a controlled and balance force to securely retain the electrical part within the socket.

Claims 6, 7, 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harper, Jr. in view of Loranger.

Harper discloses a socket (110) for an electrical part which comprises: a socket body (110) to be mounted on a circuit board and to accommodate the electrical part; and a plurality of contacts (113) disposed in the socket body, through which the circuit board and the electrical part are electrically connected. However, Harper does not disclose the socket having a divided/separate contact unit or a cover-supporting member with a cover.

Loranger discloses a socket body (7) having a contact unit (12,13) in which the contact pins are disposed, a cover supporting member (17 on left side of Fig.6) attached to one end portion side of the contact unit, the cover supporting member having a cover member (15) rotatably attached (by 18) to the cover supporting member, and an engaging member (10) for engaging a front edge portion side of the cover member, the engaging member being provided at the other end portion side of the contact unit, the socket body being divided into three parts the contact unit, the cover supporting member and the engaging member; thus providing a more efficient receiving section for the electrical part, and securely retain the electrical part within the socket.

Regarding claim 7, Harper, as modified by Loranger, discloses the contact unit comprising an accommodating surface portion (top side in Fig.4) to accommodate the

electrical part, a height of the accommodating surface portion being an approximately the same height as that of another socket which is disposed next to the socket (as shown in Fig.4), and when a plurality of the sockets for the electrical part are disposed adjacently to each other, the electrical part can be mounted over a plurality of accommodating surface portions in such a manner as bridging the accommodating surface portions (col.2, lines 41-45 and col.4 lines 37-39).

Regarding claims 9 and 11, Harper discloses a method for using the socket for an electrical part, which comprises: disposing a plurality of the sockets in an adjacent manner (col.4 lines 37-39) on the circuit board; and accommodating the electrical part over the accommodating surface portions of the sockets for the electrical part in such a manner as bridging the accommodating surface portions (col.2, lines 41-45).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Yoshizaki (US 4,717,346), Kawano et al. (US 4,815,987), Sagano et al. (US 6,602,084) and Matsuoka (US 5,443,404) disclose sockets side-by-side.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Felix O. Figueroa whose telephone number is (571) 272-2003. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 10:00am-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 Ext. 33. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ffr

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred O. Zgusta".